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**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Barbara Kirish; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis.

*“I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” - John 8:12*

**WE NEED STEWARDS (VOLUNTEERS)**  
**To Step Forward With Your Time, Talents,**  
**And God Given Gifts To Make This A**  
**Successful Community Event!**  
Please see a Church Council member to offer your help

*Thank you in advance for your support!*

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**Relocation Update** – Please continue to go to the Relocation Committee or Father with any thoughts or concerns about our next step in our journey together. *(Relocation Committee includes: Sharon Peifer, Larry Martin, Carol Lorenzi, John Kirish, John Righetti, Lynn Mainolfi, Matt Peifer, Peggy Rusnak, Rich Mirilovich, Sharon Dzadony, Tim Martin, and Todd Tusick)*

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**New Parish Community Directory** is ready to be proofed for mistakes. Please check the copy in the Church Hall.

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**Reader of the Third Hour:**

November 18: Available to you

November 25: Available to you

December 2: Available to you

*This should begin by 9:15 and can be read or chanted. Please contact Fr Dave if you are interested in participating in this wonderful stewardship prayer opportunity!*

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**#GivingTuesday** is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated **Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>** following Thanksgiving after the widely recognized shopping events *Black Friday* and *Cyber Monday*, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Let’s remember our Orthodox neighbors if you will be donating online.



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**ACRY NEWS**

**ACRY Annual / Diocesan Yearbook** - This will be the 1<sup>st</sup> year that the Annual will be published in COLOR. It will also be provided for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in a digital format online for worldwide accessibility. Non-ACRY members can purchase an Annual for \$15. Please contact Theresa Sharpless if you are interested.

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**Pill Bottle Collection** – Our ACRY is starting a new outreach. “Matthew 25: Ministries” accepts donations of clean empty plastic medicine pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies and for shredding and recycling. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment. *More information is on the bulletin board in the church hall.*

**Our Stewardship Gift To God**

Stewardship/Dues: \$ 324  
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: \$ 221  
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special: \$ 278

**Total Collections:** \$ 823

**Capital Improvement Fund:** \$ 120

**Relocation Fund:** \$ 50

*Give Generously: “For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own free will.” 2 Cor 8:3*

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**St Nicholas Charity Dinner** for the Pittsburgh Deanery will be on **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** at Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15235). Doors open at 4pm with a Buffett Dinner at 5. This annual dinner benefits our *Christ the Saviour Seminary*. Adults - \$30; Children 6-12 - \$10; Under 5 Free. *(Please make checks payable to “Pittsburgh Deanery”).* Please see Fr Dave by **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** for your ticket(s). *Auction Prize Donations (\*which may be combined with other donations\*) to be raffled off at the dinner can be given to Father.*

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**Christmas at FOCUS** – We have again offered to donate 4 sheet cakes, 300 bottles of water, 300 napkins, and 300 plasticware sets to FOCUS Pittsburgh for their annual Christmas Dinner for those in need. In addition, they are asking for \$25 gift cards from Target. Please see **Kathy Schrmack** if you are able to make a physical or monetary donation towards this wonderful event which will be held on **Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**. *Your prayers and stewardship are greatly appreciated!*

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**Winter Church Clean-Up & Nativity Decorating** – will be on **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** from 9am to noon(ish). More details to come...

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**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

November 25: Available to you

December 2: Available to you

December 9: Available to you

*The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!*

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**Parish Stewardship Opportunities...**

*As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Lk. 6:31)*

- Pray for our parish and it’s future

- Sponsor a Coffee Social

- Offer to Read/Chant the Third Hour

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**Visit Our Diocese On-Line**

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddiocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
You Tube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](https://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

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## ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

**“Created to Thrive”** – The Holy Trinity Notable Speakers Series and Spiritual Life Ministry are hosting a Family Retreat on **Friday, November 30** (7:30-9pm) and **Saturday, December 1** (9am-3pm) at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237) featuring Dr. Philip Mamalakis. Don't miss this informative presentation of “Created to Thrive” and the opportunity to explore the topics of parenting, marriage, our home, and our community. Everyone is welcome - married, pre-marriage, parents, parents-to-be or anyone else interested in growing family and community relationships. Admission is FREE, but registration is required by **Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>**. Sign up online at [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events). For additional information contact [SpiritualLife@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:SpiritualLife@HolyTrinityPgh.org) or 412-292-4206.

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## IN THE COMMUNITY

**Christmas Around the World** – The National Slovak Society presents Christmas Around the World on **Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>** from 1p-5p at the NSS Heritage Museum (351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317). There will be ethnic trees on display, photos with St. Nicholas (bring your own camera), old world bake sale, kid's arts & crafts, food, and a hand carved animated Nativity display. FREE admission & Family Fun. Call 1-800-488-1890 for more information.

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: [www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar) © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

### The Holy Martyrs Galaktion & Epistimia

*Commemorated on November 11/5*

The Holy Martyrs Galaktion and Epistimia: A rich and distinguished couple named Klitophon and Leukippia lived in the city of Phoenician Emesa, and for a long time they were childless. The spouses gave over much gold to the pagan priests, but still they remained childless.

The city of Emesa in the III Century was governed by a Syrian named Secundus, put there by the Roman Caesars. He was a merciless and zealous persecutor of Christians, and to intimidate them he gave orders to display out on the streets the instruments of refined torture. The slightest suspicion of belonging to "the sect of the Galileian" (as thus Christians were called by the pagans), sufficed to get a man arrested and handed over for torture. In spite of this, many Christians voluntarily gave themselves over into the hands of the executioners, in their desire to suffer for Christ.

A certain old man, by the name of Onuphrios, concealing beneath his beggar's rags his monastic and priestly dignity, walked from house to house in Emesa, begging alms. Everywhere where he saw the possibility to turn people away from the pagan error, there he preached about Christ. One time he came to the magnificent house of Leukippia. In accepting alms from her he sensed, that the woman was in sorrow, and he asked what was the cause of this sadness. She told the elder about her familial misfortune. In consoling her, Onuphrios began to tell her about the One True God, about His almightiness and mercy, and that He always grants the prayer of those turning to Him with faith. Hope filled the soul of Leukippia. She believed and accepted Holy Baptism. Soon after this in a dream it was revealed to her, that she would give birth to a son, who would be a true follower of Christ. At first Leukippia concealed from her husband her delight, but after the infant was born, she revealed the secret to her husband and persuaded him likewise to be baptised.

They named the baby Galaktion. His parents raised him in the Christian faith and provided him a fine education. He could make for himself an illustrious career, but Galaktion sought rather for an immaculate and monastic life – in solitude and prayer.



When Galaktion turned age 24, his father resolved to marry him off and they found him a bride, a beautiful and illustrious girl by the name of Epistimia. The son did not oppose the will of his father; however, through the will of God, the nuptials were for a certain while postponed.

Visiting often with his betrothed, Galaktion gradually revealed about his faith to her, and he converted her to Christ and he himself secretly baptised her. Together with Epistimia he baptised also one of her servants, Eutolmios. The newly-illuminated decided, on the initiative of Galaktion, to devote themselves to a monastic life. Quitting the city, they hid themselves away on Mount Publion, where there were two monasteries, one for men and the other for women. The new monastics had to take with them all the necessities for physical toil, since the inhabitants of both monasteries were both old and infirm. For several years the monastics asceticised at work, fasting and prayer. But one time Epistimia had a vision in her sleep: Galaktion and she stood in a wondrous palace before the Resplendent King, and the King bestowed on them golden crowns. This was a presentiment of their impending martyr's end.

The existence of the monasteries became known to the pagans, and a military detachment was sent off to apprehend their inhabitants. But the monks and the nuns succeeded in hiding themselves away in the hills. Galaktion however had no desire to flee and so he remained in his cell, reading Holy Scripture. When Epistimia saw that the soldiers were leading away Galaktion in chains, she began to implore the hegumeness to permit her to go also, since she wanted to accept torture for Christ together with her fiancée-teacher. The hegumeness with tears blessed Epistimia to do so.

The saints endured terrible torments, whilst supplicating and glorifying Christ. By order of the judge they were quartered asunder.

Eutolmios, the former servant of Epistimia, and who had become her brother in Christ and co-ascetic in monastic deeds, secretly gave reverent burial to the bodies of the holy martyrs. He later wrote in eulogy of their lives, for both his contemporaries and posterity.



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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

“Of all the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures.” +Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

Unity in the Body of Christ

4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,<sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love,<sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call,<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism,<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

<sup>41</sup> And there came a man named Ja’irus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus’ feet he besought him to come to his house, <sup>42</sup> for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. <sup>43</sup> And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and could not be healed by any one, <sup>44</sup> came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. <sup>45</sup> And Jesus said, “Who was it that touched me?” When all denied it, Peter said,

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“Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!” <sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, “Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me.” <sup>47</sup> And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. <sup>48</sup> And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.” <sup>49</sup> While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler’s house came and said, “Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more.” <sup>50</sup> But Jesus on hearing this answered him, “Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well.” <sup>51</sup> And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. <sup>52</sup> And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, “Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping.” <sup>53</sup> And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. <sup>54</sup> But taking her by the hand he called, saying, “Child, arise.” <sup>55</sup> And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. <sup>56</sup> And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Who Are The Angels?

On November 21, we celebrate the Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, as well as commemorating all of the angels in the heavens. There is a lot of confusion and misconception when it comes to the angels. The first misconception is that we become angels when we die. That is not true. Perhaps it is correct to say that we become like the angels in the sense that we will surround the throne of God like they do. Matthew 22:30 says “In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.” So, we will be like the angels but will not be angels.

The angles were created between the first two “days” of Creation, when God separated the heavens from the earth. The purpose of the angels was to keep the creation close to the creator. One of the angels was named Lucifer, and sought to become God. So the angels warred with one another and Lucifer (Satan) and the angels loyal to him were cast out of heaven.

There is not much revealed about the angels in the Bible. We know that there are nine orders of angels. Those who stand closest to God are the Cherubim, the Seraphim and the Thrones. We read about the Cherubim and the Seraphim in Isaiah 6, in Isaiah’s vision in the temple. The next three groups of angels are called the Dominions, the Virtues and the Powers. The final three groups, the ones that are the closet to us, are the Principalities, the Archangels and the Angels. From this group, we are most familiar with the Archangels, who are sent by God to



deliver His most important messages to people. Archangel Michael guards the door of Paradise, the angel stationed at the gate to the Garden of Eden with a sword burning in all directions. The Archangel Gabriel brought the good news of Christ’s birth to the Virgin Mary at the Annunciation. The angels are the ones who guard each person, always ready to help us, and who protect us from falling. (Most of the preceding information was taken from the article “The Archangels“ by Fr. Demetri Tobias.)

The Archangel Michael is celebrated alone on September 19. The Archangel Gabriel is celebrated alone on April 8. But all the angels (meaning the Archangels plus all of the nine orders) are celebrated on November 21.

The angels are mentioned in the Epistle lesson from St. Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews. He tells us that God send Jesus Christ into the world and made “Him for a little while lower than the angels.” (Hebrews 2:7) This means that He made Jesus Christ to be like us, to be fully human (as well as fully God), so that when Jesus was suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane, an angel came to strengthen Him, just as angels come to strengthen us. (Luke 22:43) Jesus was “lower than the angels” because He was in need of the comfort of the angels.

In our hymnology, we call the Virgin Mary “greater in honor than the Cherubim and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim.” (Magnificat, 9<sup>th</sup> Ode of Matins, Trans. by Fr. Seraphim Dedes) This means that the Virgin Mary ranks in honor above ALL the angels, even the Cherubim

The angels are important in that they are God's messengers, and they are our guardians. We believe in guardian angels, that angels look over each of us, that they provide protection and encouragement to do the right thing. They are the ones who put God's voice into our minds and hearts. Think of the cartoon where a person is trying to make the right decision and we see a white angel sitting on one shoulder encouraging the good and a red devil on the other shoulder, encouraging the bad. This is actually pretty close

*O Chief Commanders of the heavenly armies, we the unworthy ones entreat you in earnest, that you might with your supplications fortify us, guarding us who run to you and beneath the protection of the pinions of your immaterial glory, and who with fervor shout: Deliver us, from every danger, as Captains of the hosts on high. (Apolytkion of the Synaxis of the Holy Angels)*

Keep your mind and heart open to hearing the voices of God's angels! +Fr. Stavros

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## A photograph of a wall covered with numerous religious icons and a crucifix. The icons are of various sizes and styles, depicting figures like Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and saints. A large, ornate crucifix hangs in the center. The wall is light-colored, and the icons are arranged in a somewhat haphazard but dense manner.



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A religious painting depicting the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child. Mary is shown from the chest up, wearing a blue mantle over a red garment, and a crown. She holds the Christ Child on her left arm. The Christ Child is also crowned and wears a green garment. Two angels, one on each side, are shown in flight, holding long, thin objects. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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### DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

**Thanksgiving Prayer for Those in Need**

O Heavenly King, Comforter, who grants all blessings, we thank You for Your abundant grace and mercies. Help us to be good stewards of Your treasury through the ministry of IOCC. Help us to strip ourselves of our earthly adornment, so that the poor may be sufficiently clothed and fed. And, by so loving our neighbor, adorn us with the everlasting pearls of virtue instead. Where there is suffering, help us to bring Your mercy; where there is despair, Your hope. Where there is war, allow us to present You who are the Prince of Peace; where there is pain, You who are the Comforter; Where there is hatred, You who are Love; where there is death and destruction; You who are the Resurrection and Life. Daily guide our work in and through IOCC so that we may do all things, in every place and at all times, for Your glory. Amen.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, who grants all blessings, we thank You for Your abundant grace and mercies. Help us to be good stewards of Your treasury through the ministry of IOCC. Help us to strip ourselves of our earthly adornment, so that the poor may be sufficiently clothed and fed. And, by so loving our neighbor, adorn us with the everlasting pearls of virtue instead. Where there is suffering, help us to bring Your mercy; where there is despair, Your hope. Where there is war, allow us to present You who are the Prince of Peace; where there is pain, You who are the Comforter; Where there is hatred, You who are Love; where there is death and destruction; You who are the Resurrection and Life. Daily guide our work in and through IOCC so that we may do all things, in every place and at all times, for Your glory. Amen.